

VIETNAM COURIER

INFORMATION WEEKLY—E.O. 14176 TRAN HUNG DAO STREET, HANOI—DRVN

Dec. 28

1970

No. 301

7th Year

NFL 10th FOUNDRING ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATED

President Nguyen Huu Tho Reaffirms NFL Home and Foreign Policies

IN HANOI

A commemorative meeting was held on December 18, 1970 under the auspices of the Central Committee of the Fatherland Front and its Hanoi Committee as well as of the RSVN Social Representation for the 10th founding anniversary of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation (Dec. 20, 1960). Attending were President Ton Duc Thang; First Secretary of the VNWP Central Committee La Duan, Prime Minister Pham Van Dong and other Party and State leaders. Speeches were delivered by Hoang Quoc Viet, member of the Fatherland Front CC and President of the Viet Nam Federation of Trade Unions, and Nguyen Phu Soai, Acting Head of the RSVN Special Representation.

A congratulatory message was sent to President Nguyen Huu Tho by President Ton Duc Thang.

IN SOUTH VIET NAM

A big rally was organized by the NFL Central Committee to mark the Front's 10th founding anniversary. Present at the gathering were representatives of the armed forces, self-defence units, shock-brigade youth, guerrillas, workers,

peasants, religious organizations, intellectuals, industrialists, tradesmen, students, revolutionary veterans, and families credited with services to the resistance. Members of the NFL Central Committee, the Central Committee of the Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces, the RSVN Provisional Revolutionary Government and representatives of various political parties and mass organizations were also among the audience. Speeches were made by Nguyen Huu Tho, President of the NFL CC and of the Advisory Council of the PRC, and Trich Dinh Thuan, President of the Central Committee of the Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces and Vice-President of the Advisory Council.

Extracts from President Nguyen Huu Tho's address are given below:

OUR people have gone through 25 years of war against a criminal imperialist aggression. More than anybody else, we are longing for peace, necessary for the reconstruction of our devastated country. But the peace we want must be a genuine peace, in independence and freedom, founded on the respect and guarantee for our national rights and our right to self-determination, not a peace in servitude, a Nixon-type peace.

(Continued page 8)

General Vo Nguyen Giap:

"WE SHALL WIPE OUT ANY AGGRESSOR"

A commemorative ceremony was held on Dec. 21 in Hanoi to mark the 25th founding anniversary of the Viet Nam People's Army (Dec. 22) and the 24th anniversary of the Nationwide Resistance (Dec. 19).

Addressing the meeting, Prime Minister Pham Van Dong expressed the single-mindedness of the whole Party, people and army in their response to the Dec. 21 Appeal of the Viet Nam Workers' Party Central Committee and the DRVN Government: defeat the US aggressors, liberate the South, defend the North and achieve the ultimate reunification of the country. "The Vietnamese people will, shoulder to shoulder with their Lao and Cambodian brothers, drive the American invaders and their henchmen out of the Indochinese peninsula," he said.

General Vo Nguyen Giap, Vice-Premier and Defence Minister, delivered a speech recalling the fighting and successful path travelled by the Viet Nam People's Army during the past twenty-six years and extolling the achievements of the people and armed forces of the two parts of the country and those of the Lao and Cambodian neighbours in the present resistance against US aggression.

The Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, he said, is an independent and sovereign country. No such country in the world will allow its enemy to freely reconnoitre its territory or infringe upon its independence and sovereignty. Any encroachment upon our air space, territorial waters and land will surely be punished by our armed forces and people. We have the right to keep watch on, and bring down, American planes, any type should they trespass upon our air space. We have the right to muster our troops anywhere to defend our Fatherland. We have the right and are determined to wipe out any invader of our country. Such a right is our inalienable national right. Our people will never tolerate any US adventurous breach of this sacred right.

The US imperialists are also nurturing the dream of preventing the North Vietnamese people's assistance to their Southern kin and kin. The Vietnamese nation is one. Rivers may run dry and mountains may wear flat, but that fact will remain unaltered!

(Continued page 4)

ON US PILOTS CAPTURED IN NORTH VIET NAM

(PAGE 4)



Militia-women on patrol

GOVERNMENT COUNCIL LAYS DOWN TASKS FOR 1971

A year-end meeting of the Government Council recently took place under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Phan Van Quoc, during an official communique made public on December 21.

Following the fulfillment of the State plan and the management of State budget for 1970, the Government Council was gratified at the important progress made in the supply of the front and in the rehabilitation and development of economy, notably in agriculture, industry and capital construction.

It also underlined the importance and the great tasks of the year 1971, especially those in agricultural production, capital construction, development of such first-class means of production as coal, electricity, timber, building materials, and of consumer goods, with a view to improving the people's living standard and strengthening the material and technical bases of socialism.

It called on the people to increase their vigilance, combat aggressiveness and determination to successfully withstand all US war acts and maneuvers against the North and to discharge the obligation of the North, as the great rear area, towards the South, the great frontlines.

On December 15, 1970, US aircraft fired rockets at Thanh Yen village, Dien Bien Phu district, Lai Chau province.

The next day B-52's dropped bombs over Hung Lap village, north of the DMZ.

In a statement, the DRVN Foreign Ministry strongly condemned these US war acts.

THE DRVN in Brief

Le Duon, First Secretary of the VNPW Central Committee sent warm congratulations to Edward Gierke on his appointment as First Secretary of the Polish United Workers' Party Central Committee.

On the 10th founding anniversary of the South Viet Nam NLF, an exhibition named "Ten Years of Glorious and Successful Struggle" was opened in Hanoi on December 19.

A cultural display was also held in Hanoi with 400 pictures, artistic photographs, sculptures and numerous books and magazines depicting the South Viet Nam people's fight.

On Dec. 14, the DRVN Committee for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries organized two shows in Hanoi: one on the Agricultural Achievements of the Mongolian People's Republic and the other on the Up-to-date Chinaware of the Czechoslovakia.

Over 200 sportsmen and sportswomen from all North Viet Nam took part in the recent 13th cross-country in Hanoi under the auspices of the Committee of Physical and Sports Training, the Ho Chi Minh Labour Youth Union and the paper *Tien Phong* (Vanguard). Prizes were awarded to Quang Binh province, Hanoi city and the Railway General Department. The female team of Quang Binh and the male team of Hanoi won first prizes.

96th Plenary Session of Paris Conference
on Viet Nam (Dec. 23, 1970)

US PREPARATIONS FOR NEW ATTACKS AGAINST THE DRVN SCORED

Mr Xuan Thuy, chief of the DRVN delegation, accused the US ruling circles of preparing for fresh war acts against the DRVN: sending more US planes to South Viet Nam and Thailand and more aircraft-carriers into the Tonkin Gulf.

Mrs Nguyen Thi Binh, head of the RVSN PRG delegation, also heard Nixon's bellicosity in talking peace while ordering only one-day cease-fire for Christmas and the New

Year's Day (PRG troops would last three days for cash occasion).

"The RVSN PRG," declared Mme. Binh, "wants the South Vietnamese not only to have a peaceful time during these festive days but also a lasting peace to build their country in freedom. It demands the American troops and those of the satellite countries of the US camp to be reunited with their families."

250th Birth Anniversary of

Le Huu Trac, Alias Hai Thuong Lan Ong, a Great Physician and Humanist (1720-1791)

he gathered nearly 3,000 formulae to deal with 126 diseases of general medicine, surgery, gynecology, pediatrics, ophthalmology, traumatology, etc.

He took notes on 17 complicated cases he had cured and on 12 incurable diseases.

He was not only outstanding for his scientific research, but also for his lofty deontologic principles and his humanism. He said: "Medicine is a humane art which must preserve life, look after the weak and the poor; it must give assistance to the people, regardless of profits and honours." First of all, he insisted to the poor. He said, "The have-nots find plenty of physicians, but the have-nots can hardly afford a good one. We must pay particular attention to them. Much has been said of him who, apart from giving free attention to poor patients, fed them up to speed up their recovery."

To his works, fruits of hard work, gave such modern title as *Y Tonc Tam Linh*, which means: "What I have learnt from famous physicians."

This great physician was also a writer and a poet. He devoted his little leisure time to composing poems, over one hundred of which were to be found among his writings on medicine. One of his works, the *Thuong Kinh Ky Su*, related his journey to the capital city to attend to Lord Trinh Sam's son. It was a picture of the corrupt court life. And one can read between the lines a condemnation of the feudal society and its fetters. The *Thuong Kinh Ky Su* belonged to the great current of realism of Vietnamese literature in the 18th century.

The Vietnamese people have paid tribute to this great physician by calling him *"Hai Y Tonc Hai Thuong"* (The Great Doctor of Hai Thuong). In the conditions of Viet Nam, a poor agrarian country, he prescribed simple formulae within financial reach of everyone. In his books *Hanh Gien* (Indispensable Simple Formulae) and *Bach Gia Tran Tang* (A Hundred Great Physician's Treasury)

(*) These works were written in Chinese. The Institute of Eastern Medicine has translated them into Vietnamese and published them in 16 volumes.

Sept. 2, 1945

Sept. 2, 1970

The D.R.V.N.

is 25
Years Old

WITH the recovery of national independence following the sweeping August 1945 Revolution, Viet Nam like a chrysalis breaking its cocoon, rose from a torpor. The heavy colonial and feudal fetters were shattered.

Every branch of activity: political, military, economic and cultural, opened its door to the creative labour of an entire people at long last freed from bondage, inspired by dramatic victories over the foreign aggressors and invigorated by radical social reforms, notably the establishment of new production relations, that is to say new relations between man and man.

Two major imperialist powers — French colonialism and the USA — have vainly tried to check the march of the Vietnamese people: economy and culture have not ceased to forge ahead in the DRVN in spite of the ordeal of a long drawn-out war.

It is against this historical background that painting has gone through a new stage of development in Viet Nam.



Female gunners in Quang Binh
(Aquarelle by Tran Van Can)

In the colonial society, the painter, a rare specimen amidst an illiterate and illiterate population, his simplest expression, could hardly keep his body and soul together. Materially and morally, his art interested nobody, neither the people ground down by poverty and humiliation, nor the colonial bosses and the mandarins who prized money more than culture. The artist himself, having "lost his land" — as the Vietnamese say — for himself extricated from his country and his people. He has little to paint and nobody to paint for. The artist's life "is" for some consisted in

seeking a more or less lasting escape in opium or in adventures. For others, the reproduction of some stereotyped, easily saleable models, or the imitation of some masters of Western art represented the supreme purpose of art. Still others — and they could be counted on the fingers — managed somehow to produce a few original works. But on the whole, artistic creation in those times remained meagre, without vigour, without life, without originality.

THEN came the Revolution. Powerful gusts of fresh air shook and woke up the artistic circles. The painters, haversacks on their backs, went to live in the jungles or to take part in military assaults against enemy strongholds, side by side with the combatants of the People's Army, lying in the same hut, eating out of the same bowl and working in the same rice-fields with the peasants. They discovered with unending amazement, after the exhausting climb of a steep slope, the sceneries and people of those regions where none of them had ever set foot on.

feelings of art, and the desire to enjoy painting. They ask the artists to give voice to their aspirations. Some of them set to painting.

Here, art tries first of all to speak the language of life. Life captures the artists' attention. It overflows from all parts, not the life of a few individuals, or a given class but that of an entire people. Painting tries to tell something, though not always successful, but at least the artist no longer feels himself different from others, alone, not understood. He takes of that life with all his mind and all his heart. He tries to grasp the meaning of that life which



moves forward. Art is full of its subject. Subject and not object. That new life, ebullient, is full of themes, and the duty of art is just to see them, to their urgency, magnitude and depth. In that life, the future is as real as the present and realism in no way means simple reproduction of reality, but also transfiguration of all that is in gestation in the real, that is to say of all the hopes that fill the hearts of men.

The artist communes with all these hopes and his work is first of all a matter of the heart, of sentiment. Here there is no such barrier of sensibility which in many countries stands between the artist and his people. The Vietnamese artist acutely loves his motherland now "retrieved" and renovated. The love for the country, the people and labour, the love for the human kind pervade all works. A great tenderness suffuses his strokes, whether it is the glow of sunlight bordering the verdure of a village or the gentle light that hovers the faces of children learning to read. Bitterness, atrocious as they are, never bear the stigma of despair because at the end of the war and the sufferings which go with it, shines the light of independence and freedom.

Man remains the main subject. He is seen everywhere, man of all trades, of all social strata, all nationally growing crops. Weaving, making war, weaving, spinning and building. Even when he is not there in the flesh, when there is only a row of trees, a corner of the jungle, man is never absent.

In renovating himself, man sees things in a different light.

It is always the same buffalo with its ravenous maw thing and its crooked horns, whose lumbering steps have for centuries set the rhythm to the country life. Yet this buffalo has become today, after the land reform, the personal property of the farmer that tends it. The same bamboo hedge girdles the village but what is taking place behind it? The "notables" of the past, with their endless carousals, with their arrogance and cruelties, have disappeared once and for all: behind the same bamboo hedge people are today discussing science, technique, hygiene and international affairs.

The mutual affection between the liberated peasant and the buffalo that has found a true master, the merry bustling of the villages are

so many other new things which are blossoming in the country and the hearts of men, all this evidently must be given form and life in painting. New techniques were born, but little trouble choosing his themes he still has a long way to go in the search of appropriate techniques.

THE symbols and decorative motifs of medieval art no longer suffice. Even the achievements of the traditional popular art, however great their artistic value, remain handicrafts incapable of reflecting life in all its richness, especially in all its profundities. It is safe to say that the Vietnamese artists, painting first of all with their hearts, have tried every technique, consciously or not. For the moment, technical research comes second, but this uncontrollable weakness of the present Vietnamese art may be a source of hidden riches in the future. Because no school of art nor master can have the presumption to impose formulas on others, however elaborate they may be. Each paints in his own way, sharing with others only the prime target of their art: to render life in all its richness and fullness. Only barred are the juggleries of pure abstraction. This is a painting with an open heart, without detour, easily accessible to all.

The Vietnamese painters, involved with the rest of the people in a long and gruelling fight for national independence and socialism, have to wage in the artistic field a daily struggle against material difficulties.

One should not forget that all along the past twenty years they have had to work in difficult conditions. In the years 1945-1954, the artist carried in his rucksack just a few pencils, a note-book with which he jotted down a scenery or a personage, standing beside a trench, in the shade of a tree or under a halt. The studio installed in the free zone had very little equipment. US aggression has generated new and innumerable difficulties. Even in the few years of a comparative peace from 1955 to 1965, in a country still very poor which had moreover to devote his all to the building of a new economy, the means at the disposal of the painters were indifferent.

Vietnamese painting, on the other hand, possesses a particular national unknown to the artists of other countries: lacquer. Handicraft lacquer is found in Japan and China but lacquer painting, which remains specifically Vietnamese has not ceased to flourish in the last years thanks to a tireless perfecting of technique and a deepening of artistic expression. Lacquer gives a new dimension to colours, brings out joy in all its splendour, thickens, darkens, and renders in a particularly vivid manner exuberance and optimism. At present, Vietnamese painting can boast a wide range of lacquer paintings, unique in the world.

A new painting is shaping up in the history of Vietnamese art. Quite young, it is still groping for its way but already it has been firmly rooted in the national reality and is growing and maturing in spite of great material difficulties because it is supported by the march of an entire people and is striving to identify itself with it.



VIET NAM COURIER

VIET NAM COURIER

Sept. 3, 1992

However, the Government of the DRVN has been unwaveringly pursuing a lenient and humane policy vis-à-vis the US pilots captured in North Viet Nam. They have been allowed to correspond with their families on a regular basis: they enjoy

So long as the United States refuses to bring its war of aggression to a close, more Americans and more Vietnamese are to be killed or captured and the crimes of the US aggressors will pile up. The pertinacity of the US Government in prolonging and expanding its war of aggression has given further life to the slogan of protestation of "human-

The DRVN Delegate General stated on this occasion that at the requests of the Senators and Cellofum, the responsible services of the Government of the DRVN had asked him to deliver to the Senators and to Cellofum the list of American pilots captured in North Viet Nam.

Continued page 1

No force can impair the strong sentimental ties binding North, Viet Nam and South Viet Nam, and hinder the former from fulfilling its sacred obligation towards the latter. Despite all US bombings and shelling, the Northern people will stand by their Southern brothers and side with them in the fighting till total victory. The people at the cost of greater sacrifices and sacrifices, and undaunted and indomitable Southern fellow-countrymen in the frontline of the Fatherland are certain to defeat the US aggressors and their henchmen, liberate the South and preserve the North. The Southern countrymen and fighters will not let pass the US sacred ties with the North and the crime against their Northern kindred."

BY EMILIO JARZI AMADIO
(Italian journalist)

the North according to the Saigon and American propagandists: men looking like skeletons or drawing a plough in place of a buffalo, hammers and sickles threatening to spread all over Vietnam. Nothing new under the sun: twenty years later in another continent ten thousand miles away, it was the same theme, the same arguments, the same gimicks as I had seen under the Italian fascist regime. Together with other

Either our guide was a propagandist for the Diem regime, then a very stupid one, or he was one of "ours" who was so intelligent as to make use of the means put at his disposal by the regime against the regime and the Americans. In both cases, it was obvious that the Diem rule had nothing to rejoice at. The "National Liberation Front" had at last been set up a few months earlier and Saigon papers were speaking every day of the armed and political struggle stubbornly waged by the communists. At the same time, I learnt from the press of the presence of a certain professor, Eugene Staley, coming to look into such a "pacification" plan. He was to arrive after the visit to get on foot the

At that time, I was swayed by the dominant opinion already total, but the Americans did not appear frequently in public; they preferred to work in the back rooms. I had an interesting experience. Before landing, I had been warned: "Wear neither jacket nor necktie. The American men are dressed like that and they are in bad odour here." I did not heed the advice. The result was that I was the only one on the sidewalks, ill-treated in the restaurant and stared at with little sympathy; I can immediately to the conclusion that in the United States it is not an easy life here. However, Johnson, then Vice-President of the United States, who had visited Saigon a month earlier, declared he had never met with a hostile look. His political myopia was to com-

I returned to Viet Nam in 1963, at the early stage of escalation. I was there again in 1970 for a longer stay and this time had the possibility to see South Vietnam... from the northern bank of the Ben Hai river (nearly ten years after the foundation of the National Front for Liberation and after the slope of the special war whose beginning I had got a glimpse of in Saigon of the local war waged

and the air war of destruction in the North. What one saw was the very picture of hell. Near the Ben Hai river, blue smoke smudged the sky; the burning woods were stilling the air. On the bank of the Ben Hai South of that river, there was a lot of blue smoke of explosions of bombs from American planes. After that, the others, the smoke was not blue but reddish and blackish. The sound of destruction. No farmer working, but a scorched soil lying fallow, a rotten rice land hanging from the destroyed by the liberation force on the sandbank, a desert where napalm was used. It was suggested that remained of the jungle. Neither puppet nor US troops were in sight; they were digging. Their last one could spot some kilometres off by a watch-tower, or some small mountain peaks. These were the very image of isolation into which the people's war was driven deep, like a protective cocoon.

Rudimentary but effective weapons

D-50s indiscriminate night bombings. From the northern bank of the Den Hui, one could see, after midnight, the fires and smoke rising from enemy posts and hear explosions of hand-grenades and shelling the cluttered beachhead. The Liberation Army hymn and the enemy return fire. I learnt later from Liberation Radio that the Yanks had been shot and killed in the dust at the hands of the Liberation forces. But Saigon Radio kept mutin, at nothing had happened.

On the northern bank of the Boi Hai river, I sensed almost in my flesh the significance of the long years of fighting the Vietnamese people. It was also a vision of the defeat inflicted on the enemy by a people who, for four years, had fought back the attacks of thousands of warplanes and the Seventh Fleet and completed the task of repelling aggression. The sporadic violations of North Viet Nam's skies only corroborated that fact.

Looking to the South, I saw the prospect of a victory won after a grueling and heroic campaign, the outcome of which was left in no doubt.

They thought wherever they hid, "they

The distance of over ten thousand kilometers from Viet Nam to Italy can be covered in two days by plane, fifteen days by rail, or over one month by sea. But there are things for which distance does not count, things which remain in the hearts and minds of the people. The US president's 15,000-mile visit to Italy realized it. Nixon can't move about in the past weeks like Italy only by chopper (15,000 miles away from Saigon) to push up the pro-

This certainty, I may say, I had felt it from the very beginning. When I first visited the socialist North in 1959, I met women who had succeeded in escaping from the U.S. Los concentration

(*) at the 17th parallel

"The difference between this Christmas and the previous one is that the Nixon administration has extended the war to the whole of the Indochinese peninsula and that it is devising new escalations," Mr Hoang Minh Giam remarked. He also called on the American people to co-ordinate their efforts with those of the Vietnamese so as to force the Nixon authorities to halt the war and repatriate American youths.

After exchanges of views, the delegations of the three organizations of American students, North Vietnamese students and South Vietnamese students signed a joint communiqué denouncing the policy of aggression of the US ruling circles, their criminal "Vietnamization" program and the insidious charges contained in Nixon's five points. The communi-

The American students' delegation was received by Premier Pham Van Dong to whom it expressed its admiration for the national unity, revolutionary optimism and unshakable confidence in the victory of the Vietnamese people. The DRVN Premier thanked the American students and people for their courageous opposition to the US imperialist war against the Vietnamese people, an opposition which will certainly end in success.

VIET NAM COURIER

Peasants demolishing a "strategic hamlet" before returning home.

VIET NAM COURIER

Worldwide Support for DRVN December 10 Appeal

Resolutely supporting the DRVN position made clear in the Appeal, the GDR insists that the US imperialists are not only to all their war acts against the DRVN and to all and unconditionally pull out their troops from South Viet Nam. The Vietnamese people must be able to exercise their inalienable right to settle their own affairs themselves.

Loyal to the principles of proletarian internationalism, the GDR closely associates herself with the heroic Vietnamese people and will continue granting them an effective aid and support till US aggression ends.

(Statement by Walter Ulbricht, First Secretary of the Central Committee of the German United Socialist Party and Chairman of the State Council of the GDR while receiving the DRVN ambassador on Dec. 10.)

On behalf of the Party Central Committee, the Hungarian government and people, we wholeheartedly approve and support the Appeal of the VWP Central Committee to the DRVN Government. We entirely identify ourselves with the fraternal Vietnamese people in their sacred struggle and we are convinced that they will gain their aim: liberate the South, protect the North, reunify their country and successfully build socialism. We will continue all possible assistance to their heroic effort until final victory.

(Statement by Janos Kadar, First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Hungarian Workers' Socialist Party, while receiving the DRVN ambassador on Dec. 17.)

The Czechoslovak Party, government and people have, in the past as at present, given by all possible means to the Vietnamese people's resistance against US aggression a moral support and material assistance. We

greatly admire the Vietnamese people for their grim determination and great courage in the struggle against the most ferocious enemy, powerful ringmaster of imperialism. This attitude which is ours is once more confirmed in the joint declaration of the Warsaw Treaty countries. As in the past, we wholeheartedly support the position of our Vietnamese comrades laid down in the appeal of the CC of the Viet Nam Workers' Party and the DRVN government.

(Statement by H. Hanes, alternate member of the Presidium of the Czechoslovak Communist Party, Chairman of the Federal National Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Czechoslovakia, in a talk with the DRVN ambassador on December 14, 1970.)

US bombings of North Viet Nam and the US preparing opinion for new attacks against that country, thus extending and prolonging the war, are not signs of strength of the US. On the contrary, they are signs of its defeat in Viet Nam as well as in other Indo-Chinese countries. On this occasion, the NFL party, government and people of Algeria reaffirm their entire support to the heroic Vietnamese people against US aggression: we deem it our duty to afford you this assistance.

The courageous struggle of the Vietnamese people is part and parcel of the worldwide revolutionary movement directed against colonialism, neo-colonialism, Jewish expansionism and imperialism headed by US imperialism: it is a stimulant for this revolutionary movement.

(Statement by Said Ahmed, Secretary General of the Algerian NFL Party, during a meeting with the DRVN ambassador, December 17, 1970.)

* See also our last issue.

BRITISH Prime Minister Heath declared on December 10, 1970 to CBS that he fully approved of Nixon's Viet Nam policy and said that Nixon's decision to attack North Viet Nam was quite justified.

These statements appear as no surprise to us. In fact, since many years now,

Hanoi Press Opinion

Heath Brings Disgrace to Great Britain

The British government has been toying the US line, chiefly with regard to the Viet Nam problem, thus turning Great Britain into a satellite of the US. Under H. Wilson, the British government was, more than any other, lavish of praise of the measures taken by the US to step up and widen the war but kept mum about the heinous crimes perpetrated by the US aggressors in Viet Nam. The British government has been one of the very few governments in the world to have soon perseveringly backed the war of destruction unleashed by Johnson against the DRVN.

Since the return of the generous statements made by Heath are an encouragement to the US aggressors, a discordant note, and odious act which clashes with the interests of the British people.

Progressive opinion in Great Britain and in the world demands that the Heath government relinquish this policy of complicity with the US imperialist aggressors in Viet Nam, and refrain immediately from embarking on this road which would lead it to completely betray its responsibilities as a co-chairman of the Geneva conference on Indochina.

Tories to power, with the formation of the Heath government, Great Britain has addressed itself to the task of taking up the cudgels for the US criminal acts in Indochina, thus flinching from its responsibilities as a co-chairman of the Geneva conference on Indochina.

The incongruous and dan-

NEW PLAF SUCCESSES IN RACH GIA PROVINCE

700 ENEMY TROOPS WIPED OUT IN ONE DAY

EARLY in December, the puppet army launched Operation Tran Hung Dao 6 to pacify the Upper U Minh region parallel to the U Minh Campaign in Lower U Minh, Ca Mau province.

On the night of December 3, the People's Liberation Armed Forces stationed their operational base and overran the CP of the US naval base on the Xeo Ro canal. In this engagement alone the PLAF knocked out 430 adverse troops, and a river convoy composed of 6 war vessels.

By 3 o'clock of December 14, the PLAF men had attacked enemy groups on the Xeo Ro canal. After a two-hour clash, the PLAF won control of the battlefield, wiped out a complex base of Regiment 33, puppet Division 21, including the CP of this regiment, a CP of puppet river convoy, a battalion, 4 companies and one artillery encampment. In all the enemy suffered a toll of 600 men and 10 launching-boats sunk and 100 and 155 mm guns destroyed. The PLAF men then inflicted the enemy reinforcement and inflicted another hundred casualties.

In the meantime, the liberation armed forces of Ca Mau province in Ong Doc district mounted devastating actions on the nights of Dec. 1 and 8 on Battalion 9, Regiment 32, puppet Division 21 and other troop groups of this regiment on the Cai Tau river. The setbacks wrought by the Ca Mau people and armed forces on the enemy U Minh Campaign, south of U Minh fort, together with those by the Rach Gia counter-part on Operation Tran Hung Dao 6, frustrated the scheme for "pacification" of U Minh fort and at the same time the "river flotilla tactics."

Thus the puppet army have been sustaining stinging reverses in the current dry season after a very poor show in the rainy season in spite of countless modern war means supplied by the Americans.

NHAN DAN (The People)
Dec. 21, 1970

Ten Years of Construction in South Viet Nam Liberated Areas

A Developing Education

In the past ten years, despite the atrocious war of the US imperialists and their quelling, the people in the free zone have done their best to keep education going and to protect educational establishments. Their slogan is to build new schools on destroyed or underground if the old ones are destroyed, to split them into many classes and to scatter them, to keep secret the school emplacements, to change place at times, in the day or at night and in any place. Teachers have been clinging to their schools, with a single eye to the training of the future generations, while the pupils cling to their masters and their schools; both of them are ready to take up arms when the enemy came and to resume classes when he was driven away.

In 1970, the liberated zone has 7,000 schools with nearly one-million population from pre-school classes to secondary education. Compared with the 1968-1969 school-year, in the 1969-1970 year the pupil body was up from

Central Trung Bo, where the complementary schooling drive is underway. Up to 1966, 10,000 cadres at all levels had completed elementary education in complementary classes. In the 1966-1967 school-year in Western Nam Bo, 10,000 more grown-up attendants of complementary schools. In 1968, an additional number of 2,800 people knew how to read and write, 6 villages and 38 hamlets were recognized as having done away with illiteracy. In the same year, Truong Long village, Chau Thanh district, Can Tho province, though subjected to 13 B-52 air raids in a month, managed to liquidate illiteracy.

In My Tho province, in 1968, 710 more people attended 61 literacy classes and complementary classes newly set up. In the hilly region of Quang Nam province (Central Trung Bo) there were 131 literacy classes in 1968 and 150 in 1967 with 2,000 pupils. In Ninh Thuan province, in 1968 61 new literacy classes and one complementary class were open-



An evening class in the liberated zone
Sketch by Huynh Phuong Dong

TEN YEARS AFTER THE EMERGENCE OF THE NFL

(Continued from page 5)

Sometimes that struggle goes on quietly. In fact, last year, in complete silence, a youth in Leghorn hoisted an NFL flag on top of the mainmast of an American warship calling at that port. In September last year, it was a silent procession that the crowd staged to lay wreaths before President Ho Chi Minh's 30-meter high picture. But no silence in front of Nixon; no silence in front of the American services in Italy; no silence in front of the factories whose workers have downed tools. What is the most important about this movement is probably the fact that the action to support Viet Nam has succeeded in rallying the broadest sections of the

millitant youth — be they communist, socialist, catholic or non-partisan — by bringing about a new positive situation in the already broad anti-imperialist front. It can be said that, by its example, Viet Nam has given a strong impetus to the struggle of our people. This is a debt we owe to the Vietnamese people. Now, ten years after the foundation of the NFL, while its armed, political and diplomatic battle is going on with redoubled intensity, the question is whether our people will ever be able to pay this debt entirely.

(Article appearing in the Dec. 11, 1970 issue of the Vietnamese newspaper "Thong Nhat — Reunification")

VIET NAM COURIER

President Nguyen Huu Tho...

(Continued from page 8)

the policy of national unity, elaborate a constitution of a national and democratic character and choose a coalition government representative of the SVN people's will for peace, independence, democracy, national concord and neutrality.

We are in favour of a policy of militant solidarity and mutual support and assistance with the Kingdoms of Laos and Cambodia on the basis of respect for each other's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity. We advocate the establishment of diplomatic relations with all countries, irrespective of their political systems, including the USA, in accordance with the 3 principles of peaceful co-existence, and acceptance of economic and technical aid to countries with no political strings attached.

The reunification of the country in our most cherished national aspiration. In continuance of the nation's historic tradition and in compliance with the earnest desire of the people of the two zones, in view of the present situation, we believe in restoring the country's unity step by step, by peaceful methods, by means of discussions and agreements between the two zones, without either side's coercion on the other and without foreign interference.

In the meantime, the two zones will normalize relations on the basis of equality and mutual respect, and respect for each other's political system and home and foreign policies, strive to enlarge economic and cultural intercourse and help each other in construction.

Rising Popular Indignation Against Gls, Pak Jung Hi Mercenaries and Saigon Troops

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR A FEMALE PRISONER KILLED IN JAIL

The Saigon Nov. 28 (not Nov. 29 as reported in last issue—Ed) attracted a crowd of female prisoners at Tan Hiep jail took a toll of 40, which were taken away to obliterate all traces. There remained 9 seriously wounded and moved to Cho Quan hospital in Saigon, and over 100 others seriously hurt.

The Committee for a Better Prison Regime and the Women's Movement for the Right to Live voiced their protests against the puppet administration and claimed an end to brutalities but to no avail. The Union of Women Relatives of the Arrested staged a demonstration in front of this prison for permission to visit their dear kin, but their request was ignored. The news that young lady Le Thi Nga, a captive of twenty-two, was

put to death, came as a shock to the Saigonese. A memorial service for her took place on December 21. It was attended by about 300 representatives of the Committee for a Better Prison Regime, the Committee for Relations with the Detainees, the Women's Movement for the Right to Live, the Union of Women Relatives of the Arrested, the Teachers and Students' Parents' Committee Against the Repression of Students and Pupils, the National Movement of Self-Determination, the People's Front to Secure Peace and many other political and religious organizations.

It was a Saigonese riposte to the previous crack-down on the Dec. 6 memorial service for Tink Xa, Vice Binh (Saigon).

A GEL AND A YOUTH
MURDERED BY PAK JUNG HI TROOPS

The South Vietnamese townsfolk's wrath at the American shooting dead of the schoolboy Nguyen Van Minh at Quy Nhon provincial capital on December 7 had not abated when two days later in An Nhon town, 10km from Quy Nhon, a 15-year-old schoolgirl was cut down by Pak Jung Hi mercenaries. On December 10 the latter once again killed a young man in a mass shooting demonstration.

Many more actions against those atrocities erupted. The pupils and students' Dec. 10

VIET NAM COURIER

MESSAGES OF GREETINGS

(EXCERPTS)

From the Soviet Union

To Mr NGUYEN HUU THO,
President of the Presidium of the CC of the
South Viet Nam NFL,

Mr HUYNH TAN PHAT,
President of the PRG of the RSVN,

In the past ten years, the NFL as an organizing and leading force has mobilised the South Vietnamese people for a struggle full of abnegation against the US interventionists and their agents. All true patriots fighting for the South Vietnamese people's peace, freedom, self-determination, rights, democracy and social progress have rallied under the banner of national liberation. Under the leadership of the Front, all the South Viet Nam patriotic forces have been waging an armed and political struggle against the imperialist aggressors and dealing them well-deserved blows.

The legitimate struggle of the South Vietnamese patriots enjoys the support and deep sympathy of the Soviet people, and of all socialist, progressive and anti-imperialist forces. The Soviet people fully approve the social political solution to the South Viet Nam problem proposed by the NFL and the RSVN PRG. The US should stop immediately all its acts of aggression and withdraw unconditionally its troops and troops of its satellites from South Viet Nam according to a set timetable. The South Vietnamese people have the right to freely settle their internal affairs without foreign interference.

Moscow, December 19, 1970

L. BREZHNEV,
Secretary General of the CC of the CPSU

B. PODGORNYY,
President of the USSR Supreme Soviet

A. KOSYGIN,
Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR,

Messages of greetings were also received by NFL and RSVN PRG leaders from other socialist and non-aligned countries. The 10th founding anniversary of the National Front for Liberation was marked by big rallies in many capitals of the world.

From the PR of China

To Mr NGUYEN HUU THO,
President of the Presidium of the CC of the
South Viet Nam NFL,

Mr HUYNH TAN PHAT,
President of the PRG of the RSVN,

Born amidst the storms of revolution, the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation has traversed a glorious fighting course over the past decade. It is the exponent of the fundamental interests of the South Vietnamese people; it is the great standard-bearer in the South Vietnamese people's war against US aggression and for national salvation; it has performed signal deeds for the sacred cause of liberating the South, defending the North and re-unifying the Fatherland.

The heroic South Vietnamese people have persevered in a great people's war for a full decade and have beaten that superpower, US imperialism, out of its wits and driven it into hopeless dilemma. Your successes have greatly inspired the peoples of small countries with the revolutionary fighting spirit of daring to resist aggression by big powers and have given a powerful impetus to the struggle of the peoples of the world against US imperialism. The Chinese people are grateful to you, and so are the peoples of the whole world.

It is the bounden proletarian internationalist duty of the Chinese people to render support and assistance to the peoples of Viet Nam and of the other countries of Indochina in their war against US aggression and for national salvation. No matter what difficulties and hazards the peoples of Indochina may encounter on their advance in the war against US aggression and for national salvation and no matter what frantic military adventures the US aggressors may embark on, the 700 million Chinese will firmly stand together with you and give you all-out support and assistance till complete victory in the war against US aggression and for national salvation.

Peking, December 19, 1970

MAO TSETUNG

Chairman of the CC of the Chinese Communist Party

LIEN PIAO,

Vice-Chairman of the CC of the CCP,

CHOU EN-LAI,

Prime Minister of the State Council of the
People's Republic of China.

President Nguyen Huu Tho Reaffirms...

(Continued from page 1)

The 10-point overall solution and the 8-point initiative put forth on Sept. 17, 1970 by the NFL and the RSVN PRG have made clear our reasonable peace stand.

We are ready to cease fire and stop the war when the South Viet Nam people's fundamental national rights are guaranteed. On Dec. 10, 1970, our delegation to the Paris Conference declared:

"1. A cease-fire will come into force between the SVN PLAF and the troops and military personnel of the US and the other foreign countries in the US camp immediately after the PRG of the SVN government has pledged to withdraw from SVN all troops and military personnel of the US and the other foreign countries in the US camp before June 30, 1971. The parties concerned will immediately discuss measures to ensure safety for the withdrawal of all US troops and troops of the other foreign countries in the US camp and the release of captured militarymen.

"2. A cease-fire will be put into effect between the SVN PLAF and the armed forces of the Saigon administration immediately after the PRG of the RSVN and a Saigon administration without Thieu, Ky and Khiem, that adheres to peace, independence, neutrality and democracy have, come to terms on the formation of a provisional triangular coalition government in order to organize general elections as proposed in the RSVN PRG-Sept. 17, 1970 statement.

"3. The parties concerned will together work out measures to honour and strictly implement the agreements reached."

Nixon made his cease-fire offer at a time when nearly 400,000 US troops were daily perpetrating crimes against our people, when the bellicose and rotten puppet Thieu-Ky-Khien administration was terrorizing and victimizing the people, when there still was no guarantee for the fundamental national rights and the right to self-determination of the South Vietnamese people. Such a course of action would amount to legitimizing the occupation

of the US expeditionary troops and the Thieu-Ky-Khien regime and asking the South Vietnamese people to surrender. We strongly denounce and reject it as a tricky move.

In the sacred fight for independence and freedom, the strength of the bloc of great national powers has proved invincible. Great unity has been a very fine traditional trait of the nation, a source of her signal success and vigorous vitality. In the past, at present and in the future, for the sake of the nation's great cause, and of the generations to come, we advocate national unity, broad unity, which enables all Vietnamese to live in harmony and frustrate all schemes of the US imperialists and their lackeys—the Thieu-Ky-Khien trio of traitors—to "Vietnamize" the war and an fratricidal war. After the re-establishment of peace, we shall continue to strengthen the solidarity of all segments of the people, provide facilities and incentives for everybody to contribute his talent and energy to hasten the war wound, restore to normal the life of the people and build a prosperous and strong country.

This policy of great unity has been given a consistent expression in the Political Programme of the SVN NFL and the Programme of Action of the RSVN PRG as well as the 10-point overall solution and the Sept. 17, 1970 8-point initiative.

We have always been for broad unity among all sections of the people, political parties and groups, religious organizations, nationalities, religious communities, patriotic personalities and peoples, irrespective of their political leanings, regardless of their past activities, provided they favour peace, independence and neutrality so as to join forces in resisting the US imperialists and their lackeys and regain our inalienable national rights. We are prepared to co-operate and take joint actions with all forces and groups belonging to various political tendencies and religious communities at home and abroad, including those in the present Saigon administration, except Thieu, Ky, Khiem, and standing for peace, independence, democracy

and neutrality, and hold negotiations on the basis of equality and mutual respect, without either side using pressure against the other, so as to achieve a peaceful, independent, democratic and neutral South Viet Nam. We welcome all units of individual officers and men, policemen, personnel and functionaries of the Saigon puppet administration, whatever their past records, who want in all sincerity to return to the national fold; any forces or individuals supporting, or taking part in, the anti-US struggle for national salvation will be appropriately treated according to their merits. We are prepared to support and co-ordinate our actions with those groupings which have broken away from the US and Thieu-Ky-Khien and contract an alliance with them in the formation of an eventual coalition administration.

To settle South Viet Nam's internal affairs when peace has been re-established, we suggest the formation of a coalition government with the following 3 components:

- Personalities of the PRG of the RSVN,
- Personalities of the Saigon administration without Thieu, Ky and Khien, having really at heart peace, independence, democracy and neutrality,
- Personalities belonging to various political and religious groups and tendencies upholding peace, independence, democracy and neutrality, including those who, for political reasons, have had to take up residence abroad.

Our proposal for such a provisional triangular coalition government unmistakably shows our fair and reasonable policy of broad unity and sincere desire to co-operate. It has won widespread approval from South Vietnamese and world public opinion.

The provisional coalition government will organize really free and democratic general elections, free from foreign interference and without pressure from either side, in order to constitute a National Assembly which will be the epitome of

(Continued page 6)

VIET NAM COURIER